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Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, MILI CG

SUJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE: MILITARY TECHNICAL ADVISORY TEAM
(PHASE II)

REFERENCES: (A) KINSHASA 2226; (B) SECDEF 4006 DTG 052042Z
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1. FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED PRESS GUIDANCE WITH QUESTIONS
AND ANSWERS WHICH SHOULD BE USED ONLY IN RESPONSE TO
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QUERIES RE THE MILITARY TECHNICAL ADVISORY TEAM, REFTELS.

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2. PRESS GUINDANCE: QUOTE. IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S PERSONAL REQUEST, A SMALL TRI-SERVICE TEAM OF US MILITARY OFFICERS WILL BE IN ZAIRE ON A FACT-FINDING MISSION IN MAY 1976. THE RESULTS OF THEIR FINDINGS WILL ASSIST THE ZAIROIS IN REFINING EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING REQUIREMENT OF THEIR DEFENSE FORCES. FROM TIME-TO-TIME IN THE PAST, SUCH GROUPS HAVE VISITED ZAIRE, WHICH HAS RECEIVED US SECURITY ASSISTANCE OF SOME FORM SINCE 1963. UNQUOTE.

Q. WHEN WAS SUCH A TEAM LAST IN ZAIRE?

A. A SIMILAR TEAM VISITED ZAIRE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS DURING

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1975.

Q. IS THIS TEAM'S TRAVEL TO ZAIRE A FOLLOW-UP TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT?

A. NO. PLANNING FOR THE TEAM'S VISIT HAS BEEN ONGOING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. AS PRESIDENT MOBUTU INDICATED IN HIS CONFERENCE WITH THE AMERICAN PRESS DURING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT, HE AND THE SECRETARY SPOKE ABOUT MILITARY AND ECONOMIC MATTERS. AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT MOBUTU STATED: QUOTE. I DO NOT BELIEVE WE CAN SPEAK OF AN INCREASE IN AID....RATHER WE SHOULD SPEAK IN TERMS OF STRENGTHENING THIS ASSISTANCE IN TERMS OF THE PRESENT CONDITIONS IN CENTRAL AFRICA BEING WHAT THEY ARE. UNQUOTE.

Q. WHAT IS THE COMPOSITION OF THE ADVISORY TEAM?

A. EIGHT OFFICERS: FIVE ARMY, TWO AIR FORCE, AND ONE NAVY. THIS INCLUDES TWO OFFICERS STATIONED IN KINSHASA WHO WILL FUNCTION AS TEAM MEMBERS.

Q. HOW LONG WILL THE TEAM BE IN ZAIRE?

A. APPROXIMATELY 10 DAYS.
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Q. WHAT ARE THE THREATS TO ZAIRE'S SECURITY?

A. THAT IS AN ISSUE THAT SHOULD APPROPRIATELY BE ADDRESSED BY THE ZAIROIS.

Q. WHAT IS A "SECURITY ASSISTANCE" PROGRAM?

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A. ANY MILITARY ITEMS PROVIDED UNDER PART II OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961 AS AMENDED, OR SOLD FOR CASH OR CREDIT UNDER THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT, AS AMENDED. THIS WOULD INCLUDE BOTH DEFENSE ARTICLES AND DEFENSE SERVICES, INCLUDING TRAINING.

Q. WHAT KIND OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE DOES THE US PROVIDE ZAIRE?

A. SINCE 1966, THERE HAS BEEN A FOREIGN MILITARY SALES PROGRAM WHICH HAS INCLUDED SOME CREDIT SINCE 1971. WE ALSO HAVE CONTINUED TO PROVIDE LIMITED TRAINING ON A GRANT AID BASIS SINCE 1963. WE PROVIDED MILITARY EQUIPMENT, PRINCIPALLY VEHICLES, ON A GRANT AID BASIS DURING FISCAL YEARS 1963-1970.

Q. HOW MANY STUDENTS HAVE BEEN TRAINED?

A. A TOTAL OF 670 STUDENTS RECEIVED TRAINING THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 1975. APPROXIMATELY 39 ARE BEING TRAINED IN FISCAL 1976.

Q. WHAT IS THE CURRENT LEVEL OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES CREDIT AND HOW IS IT BEING USED?

A. THE FISCAL YEAR 1976 PROGRAM IS $19 MILLION WHICH IS CHIEFLY FOR PURCHASE OF TRUCKS, RADIOS, FIFTEEN CESSNA 150 AIRCRAFT AND ONE C-130.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY CLEAR PROPOSED GUIDANCE AND Q'S AND A'S WITH GOZ AND PROVIDE COMMENT SOONEST. KISSINGER

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